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ford (Yorkshire). The lecture contained many practical suggestions and remarks. The illustrations, embracing ancient Hebrew melodies, Gregorian chants, German chorales, &c., were performed by a select choir.

**SONNING.**—The Glee and Madrigal Society's second concert took place on the 19th ult. The first part comprised selections from the *Creation*, and the second consisted of glees and madrigals. Mr. Cooper and Mr. Bond accompanied on the pianoforte and harmonium.

**BEAUMONT INSTITUTION.**—A sacred concert took place at this institution on the 11th ult., when the principal vocalists were Miss Banks, Miss Palmer, Miss Pownall, Miss Fordham, Mr. G. Maryatt, and Mr. Crome. The pianoforte and organ were played by Mr. Baines. Conductor, Mr. Cartwright; leader, Mr. W. Henry.

**SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.**—The annual meeting of members of this important music institution, which has now existed for 25 years, was held at Exeter Hall on the 24th of February; the president, Mr. Harrison, in the chair. The report, which was read by the hon. secretary, Mr. Brewer, alluded to the admissions of members, and stated that in future no practising members would be admitted without a private trial, and other probationary measures being adopted, in order to secure that assistance which is really worth having. The society has given fourteen concerts during the last year, including repetitions, six of which were performances of Handel's oratorios. The vocalists who have made their debut at these concerts are—Miss Sherrington (now Madame Lemans), Miss Ransford, Mrs. Clare Hepworth, Miss Louisa Vinning, and Mr. Montem Smith. Among the acquisitions to the society's musical collections, are an autograph letter of Handel, an article of acknowledged rarity; many rare musical works, and books illustrative of musical history; and some manuscript works of considerable interest. The financial statement shows the gross receipts from subscriptions, dividends on stock, proceeds of concerts, &c., to have been, for the past year, £5226 8s. 10d., which, with disbursements for concert and other expenses, amounting to £5354 3s. 9d., leaves a deficiency of £127 14s. 11d. Against this deficiency there is to be placed acquired property added to the society's stock valued at £200. The report also alludes to the bringing to light of the autograph scores of Handel's compositions, which have been recently acquired by M. Victor Schoelcher, and which have been placed by him, with great liberality and courtesy, at the disposal of the committee, for use and reference. The report also acknowledges the receipt of a most valuable and authentic portrait of Handel, being the picture painted by Denner, and presented by Handel to J. C. Smith, which picture has recently been generously presented to the society by Lady Rivers, who is in the line of descent from J. C. Smith. This interesting portrait was exhibited in the room. The society have also received from Mr. Costa an offer of a very beautifully executed bust of himself, showing the good feeling existing between him and the society. In the course of the evening, an appeal to the directors of Exeter Hall was unanimously agreed to, to provide additional means of ingress and egress for the advantage of the public.

**SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.**—Costa's *Eli* was repeated by this society on the 27th of Feb., when the principal singers were Madame Rudersdorff, Miss Dolby, Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Montem Smith, Mr. Thomas, and Signor Belletti. March 13, the *Creation* was sung; principal singers, Madame Rudersdorff, Mr. Lockey, and Signor Belletti; and on the 27th of March, *Israel in Egypt*; principal singers, Mrs. Weiss, Miss Banks, Miss Dolby, Mr. Montem Smith, Mr. Thomas, and Signor Belletti.

**THE HANDEL FESTIVAL.**—The days announced for the grand performances of Handel's oratorios at the Crystal Palace, are the 15th, 17th, and 19th of June.

**THE WESTERN MADRIGAL SOCIETY** held its 18th anniversary dinner at the Freemasons' Hall, on Thursday, March 12th; James Evans, Esq., president of the society, in the chair. The madrigals were sustained by 130 voices; two-thirds of the number were professional: with such a phalanx of trained singers, the effect was excellent. The music was selected with taste by the secretary (Mr. Gibsone). Mr. Turle, the organist of Westminster, wielded the conductor's baton.

**ST. MARTIN'S HALL.**—The oratorio of *St. Paul* was performed on the 18th of March, under the direction of Mr. Hullah. The solo singers were Madame Rudersdorff, Miss Palmer, Mr. Lockey, Mr. Weiss, and Mr. Barnby. The chorus consisted of the members of Mr. Hullah's first upper school, and the orchestra was complete in every department.

**DEWSBURY.**—A Concert of Sacred Music, selected from the *Messiah* and *Judas Maccabæus*, took place here on the 18th of March. The principal vocalists were Miss Whitham, Miss Crossland, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Lambert, assisted by the members of the "Dewsbury Choral Society," and the "Gomersal Orchestral Union," and numbering upwards of 90 performers. The concert was for the benefit of Mr. J. Sheard, and was conducted by Mr. Dean. Mr. J. Pew was the leader.

**CINCINNATI.**—A Grand Opera Hall is about to be erected at Cincinnati by Mr. Samuel Pike. The dimensions of the edifice will be 135 feet in front, 188 feet deep, and 98 feet high. It will be of free-stone, and five stories in height. On the first story there will be four large rooms, which will be rented off as stores, having a basement and sub basement. On each of the four superior stories there will be eight rooms, thirty-two in all, each 32 feet deep. These will be let as offices, &c. Situated between the stories will be three entrances to the Opera Hall,—a grand main entrance, 12 feet wide, and two side entrances, besides five different outlets to facilitate the exit of large audiences. The great Opera Hall, which is to be situated at the rear of the offices, will be 100 feet wide, 140 feet deep, and 55 feet high, and will be richly ornamented with appropriate designs. Saloons and retiring-rooms of large dimensions are to be connected with the Hall. It is said that this Opera Hall will be unsurpassed in the United States.

## MUSIC.

### NOVELLO'S CHEAP EDITIONS OF ORATORIOS.

"In Novello's *centenary* editions of HANDEL'S ORATORIOS AND CANTATAS, now issuing, the lowest point of cheapness would seem to be arrived at. A library of a score of the most valuable and popular of Handel's and other great masters' works may now be had at about the cost of a single copy of any one of them some years since, and before Mr. Novello—trusting to the support of the public, rather than to the wealthier few—first published his celebrated octavo editions. This step, as was no doubt foreseen by Mr. Novello, or he would not have ventured on so hazardous an experiment, has created an immense demand, and Handel's oratorios and cantatas, Haydn's *Creation*, and Haydn's, Beethoven's, and Mozart's services, &c., &c., find their way to the book-shelf of the amateur of limited means; indeed, so general is their use becoming, that a copy of an oratorio to the frequenters of sacred concerts seems to be as indispensable as a play-bill to the *habitues* of the theatre. The present editions are reduced in price about fifty per cent., while the getting up is equal in every respect to the former octavo editions. The avowed aim of the publisher in thus presenting these works to the musical public, is to facilitate the general celebration of the approaching centenary commemoration of the great Handel's death in 1759, and in acknowledgment of the deservedly wide-spread popularity his publications have obtained. An advertised list appears in another column."—*Worcestershire Chronicle*, March 25, 1857.